In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;

receiving information of an event;

determining a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

providing the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then selecting one person to contact and attempting to contact the one person; and

if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold, then selecting a plurality of persons to contact and attempting to contact the plurality of persons;

wherein the agent selector selects the one person and the plurality of persons to contact based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from the current location of the at least one person.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein information concerning the current location of the at least one person is provided by a device carried by the at least one person.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6, wherein the device carried by the at least one person carries a GPS receiver used to provide the information concerning the current location of the at least one person.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6, wherein the information concerning the current location of the at least one person is derived based on information concerning the location of a network connection to which the device is attached.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the information concerning the current location of the at least one person is derived based on information concerning the location from which a signal transmitted by the device is received.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein at least one person has the option to disable the providing of the information concerning the current location of the at least one person by the device.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, implementing an event detector and agent selector, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

load and execute instructions implementing the event detector to receive information of an event;

load and execute instructions implementing the agent selector to select a device to attempt to contact at least one person through a communications service provider;

determine a level of importance of the event to a first person;

select one person to contact and attempt to contact the at least one person if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and if the level of importance of the event is determined to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold; and

select a plurality of persons to contact and attempt to contact the plurality of persons if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold;

wherein the agent selector selects the one person and the plurality of persons to contact based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from the current location of the at least one person.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable of claim 14, wherein information concerning the current location of the at least one person is provided by a device carried by the at least one person.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the at least on person has the option to disable the providing of the information concerning the current location of the at least one person by the device.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;

receiving, by the event detector, information of an event;

determining, by the event detector, a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

providing the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, then selecting a first device to contact at least one person and attempting to contact the same at least one person;

receiving an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person;

attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will result in success; and

attempting to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will not result in success;

wherein the agent selector selects the at least one person and the alternate at least one person based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 21, wherein the information concerning the location of the at least one person is used to derive the nature of a failure.

23-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the first device was busy, suggesting that a later attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would result in success.

27. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the first device was malfunctioning, suggesting that a later attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would not result in success.

28. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the same at least one person is choosing not to respond to the attempt to contact the same at least one person, suggesting that a later attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would not result in success.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;

receive, by the event detector, information of an event;

determine, by the event detector, a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

providing the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

select a first device to contact at least one person and attempt to contact the same at least one person if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold;

receive an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person;

attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will result in success; and

attempt to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will not result in success;

wherein the agent selector selects the at least one person and the alternate at least one person based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

30.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

32.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the information concerning the location of the at least one person is used to derive the nature of a failure.

34. (Currently Amended) A digital assistant having an event detector and agent selector, and programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by the first person to:

receive information of an event;

determine a level of importance of the event to the first person;

access a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

select one person to contact and attempt to contact the one person if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and if the level of importance of the event is determined to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold; and

select a plurality of persons to contact and attempt to contact a plurality of persons if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold;

wherein the agent selector selects the one person and the plurality of persons based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The digital assistant of claim 34 further programmed by the first person with the first and second thresholds.

36.   (Currently Amended) A digital assistant programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by the first person to:

provide a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector;

receive, by the event detector, information of an event;

determine, by the event detector, a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

provide the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

select a first device to contact at least one person and attempt to contact the same at least one person if the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold;

receive an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person;

attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will result in success; and

attempt to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person again will not result in success;

wherein the agent selector selects the at least one person and the alternate at least one person based on at least one of profile information and rules provided by a user of the digital assistant, the profile information including the user's personal preferences for particular

services and communication products, and the rules including limits on carrying out particular functions for the user.

37. (Previously Presented)   The digital assistant of claim 36 further programmed by the first person with the first threshold.

38. (Previously Presented)   The digital assistant of claim 36 further programmed by the first person with rules indicating when action should always be taken without attempting to contact any person.